

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951.

To The Chairman and Members of the Wisbech Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the district for the past year, ending December 1951.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area 49,841 acres

Estimated resident population mid-1951, 12,290

Rateable value, £30,426

Sum realized by a penny rate £130,000

Number of inhabited houses, about 3,882

|                                                        | Total | M      | F  |                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Live births (Legitimate)                               | 184   | 89     | 95 | ) Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident mid-1951 population 15.7 |
| (Illegitimate)                                         | 10    | 4      | 6  |                                                                          |
| Still births (Legitimate)                              | 4     | 1      | 3  | ) Rate per 1000 (live and still) births 21.2                             |
| (Illegitimate)                                         | -     | -      | -  |                                                                          |
| Deaths                                                 | 145   | 88     | 57 | Death rate per 1000 of the estimated average population 11.8             |
| Deaths from puerperal causes:-                         |       | Deaths |    | Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births                              |
| Puerperal sepsis                                       |       | 0      |    | 0                                                                        |
| Other puerperal causes                                 |       | 0      |    | 0                                                                        |
| Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-            |       |        |    |                                                                          |
| All infants per 1000 live births                       |       |        |    | 41.2                                                                     |
| Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births     |       |        |    | 27.1                                                                     |
| Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births |       |        |    | 30.0                                                                     |
| Deaths from cancer (all ages)                          |       |        |    | 32                                                                       |
| Deaths from measles (all ages)                         |       |        |    | 0                                                                        |
| Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)                  |       |        |    | 0                                                                        |
| Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)         |       |        |    | 0                                                                        |

For this area there is one School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals, and an Orthopaedic Clinic held at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital, with excellent motor ambulance facilities. The Hospital previously admitting Infectious Diseases has recently been converted and now accepts female chronic sick and aged patients. Infectious Diseases when necessary are admitted to Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals.

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children under the age of five years who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year, 82.

## Housing.

Number of houses completed during the year:-  
Council 68 Private 9

Number of houses under construction at the end of the year:-  
Council 38 Private 6

Unfit houses. There are still approximately 565 unfit houses in the district inhabited by about 2,500 persons.

# FACTORIES ACT 1937 & 1948

## PART I OF THE ACT.

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

| Premises                                                                                                                   | Number<br>on<br>Register | Inspect-<br>ions | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which<br>Section 1,2,3,4 and 6<br>are to be enforced by<br>Local Authorities.                             | 81                       | 83               | -                  | -                       |
| (ii) Factories not<br>included in (i) in<br>which Section 7 is<br>enforced by the Local<br>Authorities.                    | 27                       | 29               | -                  | -                       |
| (iii) Other Premises<br>in which Section 7 is<br>enforced by the Local<br>Authority, (excluding<br>out-workers' premises). | -                        | -                | -                  | -                       |
| Total                                                                                                                      | 108                      | 112              | -                  | -                       |

### 2. CASES in which defects were found.

|                                                                                           | Number of cases in which defects were found. |          |                      |                      | Number of<br>cases in<br>which pros-<br>ecutions<br>were<br>instituted. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           | Found                                        | Remedied | By H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector |                                                                         |
| Want of<br>Cleanliness                                                                    | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| Overcrowding                                                                              | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| Unreasonable<br>temperature                                                               | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| Inadequate<br>ventilation                                                                 | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| Ineffective<br>drainage of<br>floors                                                      | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| Sanitary Conven-<br>iences                                                                |                                              |          |                      |                      |                                                                         |
| (a) insufficient                                                                          | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| (b) unsuitable or<br>defective                                                            | 1                                            | 1        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| (c) not separate<br>for sexes                                                             | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| Other offences<br>against the Act<br>(not including<br>offences relating<br>to out-work). | -                                            | -        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |
| Total                                                                                     | 1                                            | 1        | -                    | -                    | -                                                                       |

## Water Supply.

Extensions of water mains carried out in 1951.

|                         |         |             |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Rural District Scheme   | 3" pipe | 17,989 yds. |
| "                       | 4" "    | 6,595 yds.  |
| Pydd & Newton           | 3" "    | 9,572 yds.  |
| "                       | 4" "    | 7,900 yds.  |
| Housing Sites           | 3" "    | 224 yds.    |
| Agricultural extensions | 3" "    | 1,255 yds.  |

Connections made during the year, 258.

## Certificate of Analysis (copy)

### Bacteriological Examinations.

|                                   |                  |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Bacteria. Colonies per ml.        | Bacterium Coli.  |   |
| Nutrient Agar at 20°C 3 days. -   | Presumptive Test | 0 |
| Nutrient Agar at 37°C 24 hours. - | Confirmatory     | 0 |
| Nutrient Agar on 37°C 48 hours. 1 |                  |   |

### Physical Characters.

|           |       |       |     |
|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| Colour    | Nil   | Taste | Nil |
| Turbidity | Clear | Odour | Nil |
| Ph.       | 7.3   |       |     |

### Chemical Analysis (Expressed in Parts per million)

|                                              |         |                              |              |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Free CO                                      | 18.4    | Calcium (Ca)                 | 100.00       |
| Acidity <sup>2</sup> CO                      | nil     | Magnesium (Mg)               | 5.20         |
| Alkalinity <sup>2</sup> (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) | 200.000 | Sodium (Na)                  | 12.17        |
| Chlorides (Cl)                               | 28.00   | Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) | 120.00       |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen                          | Trace   | Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )  | 30.00        |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen                          | .022    | Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )   | 6.00         |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates                         | 7.40    | Aluminium (AL)               | Trace        |
| Nitrogen as Nitrites                         | Nil     | Iron (Fe)                    | Nil          |
| Oxygen Absorbed                              |         | Manganese (Mn)               | Nil          |
| (4hrs at 27°C)                               | .347    | Zinc (Zn)                    | Nil          |
| Temporary Hardness                           | 200.00  | Poisonous Metals-Faint       | trace copper |
| Permanent Hardness                           | 74.00   | Lead                         | Nil          |
| Total Hardness                               | 274.00  | Free Chlorine                | Nil          |
| Total Solids                                 |         |                              |              |
| (dried at 180°C)                             | 334.0   |                              |              |

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

|                   | Total cases notified. | Deaths. |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Smallpox          | 0                     | 0       |
| Scarlet Fever     | 7                     | 0       |
| Diphthoria        | 0                     | 0       |
| Pneumonia         | 1                     | 0       |
| Erysipelas        | 5                     | 0       |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1                     | 0       |
| Enteric Fever     | 0                     | 0       |
| Measles           | 53                    | 0       |
| Whooping cough    | 36                    | 0       |

### Notification of Tuberculosis

| Age Periods | Now Cases. |                | Deaths.    |                |
|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
|             | Pulmonary. | Non-Pulmonary. | Pulmonary. | Non-Pulmonary. |
|             | M          | F              | M          | F              |
| 1           | 0          | 0              | 0          | 0              |
| 5           | 0          | 0              | 0          | 0              |
| 15          | 0          | 0              | 0          | 0              |
| 25          | 1          | 2              | 0          | 0              |
| 35          | 0          | 0              | 0          | 0              |
| 45          | 0          | 2              | 0          | 0              |

| Age Periods | New Cases. |   |                |   | Deaths.    |   |                |   |
|-------------|------------|---|----------------|---|------------|---|----------------|---|
|             | Pulmonary. |   | Non-Pulmonary. |   | Pulmonary. |   | Non-Pulmonary. |   |
|             | M          | F | M              | F | M          | F | M              | F |
| 55          | 0          | 0 | 1              | 0 | 0          | 0 | 0              | 0 |
| 65 & over   | 0          | 0 | 0              | 0 | 1          | 0 | 0              | 0 |
|             | <hr/>      |   |                |   | <hr/>      |   |                |   |
|             | 1          | 4 | 1              | 1 | 1          | 0 | 0              | 0 |
|             | <hr/>      |   |                |   | <hr/>      |   |                |   |

I remain, Gentlemen,  
Very faithfully yours

H. Leslie Groom.  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.